

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-14

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 FILE-01 SSO-00 ADP-00 /017 R

66645

DRAFTED BY: S/ S- O: JCRAIG

APPROVED BY: S/ S- O: JMEALUM

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O 010052 Z APR 73 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE

INFO USDEL SAN CLEMENTE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 060002

TOSEC 36

WHITE HOUSE PASS TO SECRETARY ROGERS AT SAN CLEMENTE

FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK, BUDAPEST, JAKARTA,
MANILA, OTTAWA, PHNOM PENH, USDEL JEC PARIS, VIENTIANE,
WARSAW, AMCONGEN DANANG, AMCONGEN NHA TRANG, AMCONSUL BIEN HOA,
AMCONGEN CAN THO, CINCPAC, CDRUSSAG NKP RIAFB, COMUSMACTHAI
FROM SAIGON MAR 31.

QUOTE SAIGON 5324.

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT - MARCH 31, 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE
TO THE EMBASSY AS OF 2000 MARCH 31

PART I: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF CONTROL & SUPERVISION
(ICCS)

SPLIT REPORTS DISCUSSED AND FORWARDED TO JMC

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AIRCRAFT BAILMENT TERMS FOUND GRATIFYING

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DEPLOYS OUT OF COUNTRY

PART III: FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM (MISSING IN ACTION)
I (FPJMT/ MIA)
LIAISON FLIGHTS DISCUSSED

PART IV: GVN/ PRG BILATERALS
N NO PROGRESS IN FOURTH PLENARY

PART V: PRESIDENT THIEU LEAVES FOR UNITED STATES

PART VI: MR 1
NVA ELEMENTS INVOLVED IN SA HUYNH BATTLE REPORTED
TO HAVE COMPLETED REFITTING AND RETRAINING.

PART VII: MR 2
MILITARY ACTIVITY INSIGNIFICANT. ICRJ TEAMS BEGIN
TWO INVESTIGATIONS. MORE AGGRESSIVE GVN MILITARY
POLICY ANNOUNCED IN BINH THUAN.

PART VIII: MR 3
MR 3 HEADQUARTERS G-2 DOES NOT FORESEE
OFFENSIVE IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE

PART IX: MR 4
HGDG NHU BELIVED PRIORITY TARGET FOR VC/ NVA

PART I: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF CONTROL & SUPERVISION
(ICCS)

1. THE MARCH 30 PLENARY CONSIDERED REPORTS FROM REGION I ON
WHY THE REGIONAL TEAM WAS NOT ABLE TO CARRY OUT THE CUA VIET
INVESTIGATION; AND FROM REGION V ON WHY THAT TEAM WAS UNABLE
TO GO FORWARD WITH THE INVESTIGATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN ORDERED
ON TONLE CHAM AND RACH BAP. ALL THREE REPORTS WILL BE SENT
TO THE JMC.

2. THE SPLIT REPORT FROM REGION I ON THE VINH HOA PHUONG II
INVESTIGATION WAS DISCUSSED AND ALSO FORWARDED TO THE JMC.
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3. AMBASSADOR BUNKER' S LETTER RE THE TERMS OF BAILMENT OF
AIRCRAFT TO AIR AMERICA, WHICH HAD BEEN RECEIVED EARLIER, WAS
CONSIDERED AND " GREAT GRATIFICATION" WAS EXPRESSED OVER THE RE-
DUCTION IN THE COSTS TO BE BORNE BY THE ICCS.

4. THE DISSOLUTION OF THE GVN' S ICCS LIAISON OFFICE WAS THE
LAST TOPIC AND IT WAS DECIDED TO GIVE PRIORITY IN HIRING TO ITS
FORMER EMPLOYEES.

5. THIS WAS THE HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR'S LAST DAY IN THE CHAIR BUT HE DID NOT RPT NOT FOLLOW HIS CANADIAN COLLEAGUES EXAMPLE OF LAST MONTH AND MAKE A SUMMARY STATEMENT ON THE MONTH'S ACTIVITIES. THE INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR, GENERAL DHARSONO, WILL PRESIDE OVER THE ICCS MEETINGS DURING APRIL.

PART II. : FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (FPJMC)

ALL US JMC PERSONNEL MOVED TO REGIONAL SITES FROM SUB-REGIONS ON MAR 29 AND ALL JMC ELEMENTS (EXECPT GVN) ARE TO HAVE REDEPLOYED TO SAIGON ON MAR 30 AND 31. LAST US JMC PERSONNEL SCHEDULED TO HAVE LEFT RVN BY END OF DAY MAR 31; US MILITARY REMAINING IN- COUNTRY WILL BE LIMITED TO 50 DAO PERSONNEL AND 159- MAN MARINE GUARD DETACHMENT.

DRV JMC ELEMENT BY MAR 31 WILL HAVE LEFT COUNTRY WITH EXCEPTION OF 35- MAN CONTINGENT REMAINING IN SAIGON AS PART OF THE JOINT MILITARY TEAM FOR THE RESOLUTION OF STATUS OF MIA. PRG REDEPLOYMENT FROM REGION TO SAIGON ALSO EXPECTED TO BE ACCOMPLISHED NO LATER THAN MAR 31. CHIEF OF PRG DELEGATION PLUS A PARTY OF FIVE, AT INVITATION OF DRV DELEGATION, WENT TO HANOI MAR 30; THEY WERE EXPECTED BACK IN SAIGON ON MAR 31. THERE IS NO INDICATION AT THIS TIME WHEN AND IN WHAT NUMBERS PRG PERSONNEL WILL DEPLOY IN FPJMC CONTEXT.

PART III: FOUR- PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM (MISSING IN ACTION)
(FPJCC / MIA)

ACCORDING TO ART 10 OF THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING THE RETURN OF CAPTURED MILITARY PERSONNEL, ETC., A FOUR- PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM (MISSING IN ACTION) (FPJMT/ MIA) HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO CONTINUE THE SEARCH FOR DEAD AND MISSING. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF LIAISON FLIGHTS BETWEEN
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HANOI AND SAIGON FOR SUPPORT OF THE FPJMT/ MIA. THE DRV HAS PROPOSED
ALTERNATING FLIGHTS WITH RPM AND DRV AIRCRAFT.
THE RVN INITIALLY REFUSED THIS PROPOSAL ALTHOUGH, ACCORDING TO LT. GEN THUAN, CHIEF RVN REP ON THE FPJMC, NO FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE. AS AN INTERIM MEASURE THE US HAS OFFERED TO PROVIDE WEEKLY C-130 FLIGHTS TO HANOI FROM SAIGON AND RETURN.

PART IV: GVN/ PRG BILATERALS

FOUR SESSION OF GVN/ PRG BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS HELD MAR 30 AND MADE NO NOTICEABLE PROGRESS ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM PARIS (USDEL FRANCE 9012). IN PREPARED STATEMENTS BOTH SIDES PRESENTED SUMMARIES OF SITUATION SIXTY DAYS AFTER ACCORD, EACH CLAIMING SCRUPULOUS COMPLIANCE WITH TERMS OF PARIS AGREEMENT AND BLAMING OTHER FOR CONTINUED FIGHTING IN VIET-

NAM AND CONTINUED IMPASSE IN PARIS DISCUSSIONS. FIFTH SESSION WILL BE HELD APRIL 3.

PART V: PRESIDENT THIEU LEAVES FOR UNITED STATES

1. PRESIDENT THIEU LEFT FOR UNITED STATES ON MAR 31. HE WILL STOP IN GUAM TO DECORATE US B52 PILOTS, THEN PROCEED TO CALIFORNIA FOR TWO DAYS OF TALKS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON ON APRIL 2 AND 3. AFTER THAT HIS PLANS CALL FOR A VISIT TO WASHINGTON TO MEET, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL VIETNAM PRESS, WITH CONGRESSIONAL, BUSINESS, AND LABOR LEADERS, AND PRESS CIRCLES. HE WILL ALSO ADDRESS THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB AND LAY A WREATH AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER. DURING A SIDE TRIP TO TEXAS ON APRIL 7, HE WILL VISIT THE TOMB OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND CALL ON MRS. JOHNSON. HE WILL RETURN BY WAY OF EUROPE WHERE HE WILL CALL ON THE POPE, PRESIDENT OF ITALY, PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN, AND POSSIBLY THE PRESIDENT OF FRG. ON THE WAY BACK TO VIETNAM, HE WILL VISIT KOREA APRIL 11 AND 12, AND REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON APRIL 12 AND 13. HE IS ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. THIEU, CHIEF OF JOINT GENERAL STAFF, FOREIGN MINISTER, MINISTERS OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY, AND A LARGE RETINUE.

2. PRESENCE OF MINISTERS OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE IN PARTY HAVE LED TO OBVIOUS CONCLUSION THAT SUBJECT OF FURTHER ECONOMIC CONFIDENTIAL

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AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM WILL BE INCLUDED IN TALKS WITH US AUTHORITIES. HOWEVER, SEMI-OFFICIAL DAILY TIN SONG CITES MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SOURCE TO EFFECT THAT PRESIDENT THIEU WILL ALSO SEEK CONTINUED ASSURANCES OF US MILITARY SUPPORT IF DRV RESUMES LARGE-SCALE HOSTILITIES, AS A FIRM STATEMENT BY THE US PRESIDENT ON THIS SUBJECT WOULD DETER DRV FROM SUCH A COURSE.

PART VI: MR 1

1. INCIDENTS ROSE IN MR 1 TO 25, OF WHICH 21 WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF). FIRST DIVISION TOOK 17 OF THE ABFS INCLUDING 75 ARTILLERY AND 174 MORTAR ROUNDS. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS WAS RELATIVELY QUIET. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE 7 MIA AND 34 WIA (50 PERCENT BY MINES); ENEMY 22 KIA, 1 CAPTURED. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 879 ROUNDS, 646 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS (ALL BY FIRST DIVISION). 233 SOUTH.

2. INTELLIGENCE REPORTS IN QUANG NGAI INDICATE THAT ELEMENTS OF THE 2ND NVA DIVISION, WHICH WITHDREW INTO THE MOUNTAINS ALONG THE QUANG NGAI AND BINH DINH BORDER AFTER BEING ROUTED FROM THE SA HUYNH AREA, HAVE NOW COMPLETED THEIR RETRAINING AND REFITTING AND ARE AGAIN MOVING EASTWARD TO RESUME PRESSURE ON FRIENDLY TROOPS IN THAT AREA. THE SAME IS BELIEVED

TRUE OF ENEMY UNITS SUCH AS THE 30 TH AND 40 TH LOCAL FORCE
BATTALIONS IN EASTERN BINH SON AND SON TINH DISTRICTS WHICH
HAVE ALSO AVOIDED CONTACT DURING THE PAST MONTH.

3. LIAISON OFFICER DANANG REPORTS THAT PEOPLE ARE PRIMARILY
CONCERNED ABOUT RISING COSTS OF LIVING AND MANY BELIEVE THAT
GOVERNMENT CADRE OF ALL LEVELS SPEND TOO MUCH TIME ON
POLITICAL PROPAGANDIZING AND PROSELYTIZING TO THE NEGLECT OF
THE DISCHARGE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES SUCH AS SOLVING
THE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

PART VII: MR 2

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY DWINDLED TO INSIGNIFICANT DURING
24- HOUR REPORTING PERIOD.

2. DELAYED REPORT FROM BINH THUAN INDICATES THAT GROUP OF
69 CIVILIANS IN HOA DA DISTRICT WERE TEMPORARILY ABDUCTED
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MAR 27 AND MADE TO LISTEN TO VC PROPAGANDA LECTURE ON MEANING
OF PARIS AGREEMENT. AFTER HEARING DETAILS OF " COMMUNIST
VICTORY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 07 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE060002
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/ S- O: JCRAIG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730460/abqceifm.tel
Line Count: 242
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 13 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Sep-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <16-Nov-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971117
Subject: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT - MARCH 31, 1973
TAGS: MILI, PINS, VS
To: WHITE HOUSE INFO SAN CLEMENTE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005